

The Strand

Early Intervention / Early Childhood Training Opportunities

Volume. 4 (5) March 2005

LOCAL AND REGIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

26th Annual Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium Conference

CHILD'S PLAY: MAKING LEARNING FUN

An excellent educational opportunity for practitioners, researchers, doctors, policy makers and families to join in learning and teaching together. This year's conference will focus on a variety of topics designed to help increase knowledge of issues affecting the development of young children and families and foster connections among early childhood professionals.

Keynote Speaker: **Robin McWilliam**, PhD., Professor and Director of the Center for Child Development at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. McWilliams is a leading researcher and author in the field, particularly on the key components of Natural Environments in Early Intervention and the role of the primary service provider in supporting children's participation in everyday activities and routines. He developed the "*Routines-Based Interview*" and other materials used by Early Intervention professionals.

- May 11-12, 2005
- Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel
- Marlborough, MA

For more information or to register call (508) 856-6743 or visit www.maeic.org

The SCERTS Model Seminar

The SCERTS Model offers a framework of specific goals and procedures for assessment and educational programming that directly address the core challenges faced by children with ASD.

- Presenter: Barry M. Prizant, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
- May 5-6, 2005 in Sturbridge, MA

For more information call Childhood Communication Seminars at 467-7008 or visit www.ccseminars.com

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS SYSTEMS

This four-part training series is for **Early Intervention providers** who are seeking to improve their knowledge of the DCYF system and improve support to families in DCYF. The trainings offer practical information about child welfare laws, permanency planning, visitation, cross-system collaboration and family-centered practice.

TRAINING DATES and TOPICS:

- **April 25, 2005 from 12:45-4:00**
Child Welfare Practice & Adoption And Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997
- **May 6, 2005 from 12:45-4:00**
Family-Centered Practice (FCP)
- **May 23, 2005 from 8:45-12:00**
Family Visitation in Child Welfare: Theory & Practical Implications
- **June 13, 2005 from 12:45-4:00**
Cross-System Collaboration: Forming a Permanency Planning Team (PPT)

To register e-mail Catherine Pitassi at DCYF at :
Catherine.Pitassi@dcyf.ri.gov

For more information contact Judy Semonoff at the Early Intervention Training Center at 277-5409.

Medical Homes for Children with Special Needs

This conference will feature national and local speakers and is appropriate for families, professionals, policy makers and others caring for children with special needs.

Topics include: *Family- Centered Practice*, Parent/Professional Partnerships Making Lasting Impacts, *Improving Care Coordination and Communication for Optimal Health*, Designing a Pediatric Practice as a Medical Home, *Reimbursement Issues in Medical Homes*, Supports/Resources for Families of Children with Special Health Care Needs

- March 30, 2005, 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM
- Radisson Hotel, Warwick, RI

For more information, contact: Barbara Torres at RIPIN, 401-727-4144 x 161 or torres@ripin.org

Horizons for Homeless Children Young Children Without Homes National Conference

This conference will focus on child and family homelessness and its effect on young children (0-5 years), cross-systems training, networking and collaboration, and strategies and solutions.

Keynote Speaker: **Jack P. Shonkoff**,
Dean of the Heller School, Brandeis University

- April 27-29, 2005
- Newton Marriot Hotel, Boston, MA

For more information contact Karen Elliott at (617) 287-1900 ext. 135 or via e-mail at kelliott@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org

Multicultural Family Conference *Transforming Life Narratives: Culture and Genograms*

This workshop will explore how to serve culturally diverse clients and provide training for professionals on the use of genograms in clinical assessment and intervention.

Speakers: Monica McGoldrick, LCSW, Ph.D.
Nydia Garcia Preto, LCSW, ACSW

- Friday, March 18, 2005, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM
- The Ray Conference Center, Butler Hospital

For more information contact Butler Hospital at 455-6265 or info@butler.org.

15th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

Supporting Promising Practices and Positive Outcomes: A Shared Responsibility

A one week conference dedicated to policy, research, program and practice issues concerning child abuse and neglect.

Professionals and volunteers from various disciplines can benefit from this event which includes national speakers, round table discussions, workshops and skills seminars. This year's theme involves promoting collaboration across disciplines and agencies to provide more effective services to protect children and families.

Keynote Speaker: **Jack P. Shonkoff**,
Dean of the Heller School, Brandeis University

Other featured speakers include: Judge Constance Cohen, Dr. Eli Newberger, D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas, Rev. Gloria Hammond, M.D. and Donald C. Bross, Ph. D.

- April 18-23, 2005
- Sheraton Hotel, Boston, MA

For more information or to register visit <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov> or contact Pal-Tech at (703) 528-0435, e-mail at 15conf@pal-tech.com.

The Early Childhood Institute Professional Forum

Weaving a Net of Safety for Young Vulnerable Children: Nurturing Relationships for Growth

This presentation will describe a Safety Net, woven and spread within child care settings, so that children and families in need get noticed, held and helped before the children begin to fail in school.

Speaker: Rebecca Shahmoon Shanok, LCSW, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for Infants, Children & Families,
Jewish Board of Family and Children Services

- Friday April 29, 2005
- 9:00 AM-12:30 PM
- Radisson Inn, Warwick, RI

For more information contact Teresa Packhem at The Providence Center at 528-0184.

Rhode Island College School of Social Work

The School of Social Work offers a variety of workshops for professionals. This spring, trainings include:

Enhancing our Understanding of Culturally Diverse Communities

- Wednesday, March 16, 2005 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
- Presenter: Deoshore Haig, M.S.W.

Assessing Sexual Trauma in Children and Possible Treatment Interventions

- Friday, April 8, 2005 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM
- Presenter: Daniel Harvey, LICSW

For more information or to register contact Deb McCurdy at 456-8761.

The Autism Project of Rhode Island A Starting Point

A Starting Point is a 9-week training series for families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, and the educators and professionals working with children with ASD. Topics covered include: Autism Spectrum Disorders defined, visual structures, communication, sensory integration and diet, independent work systems, social stories, and behavioral supports.

- March 30-June 1, 2005
- Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 PM
- The Autism Project of RI, Cranston, RI

For more information, call 785-2666 or check the website: www.theautismproject.org.

Autism: Sharing the Knowledge Second Annual Autism Conference

This year's conference will include topics such as Early Intervention, Autism and IDEA, Social Skills, and Adolescence and Sexuality.

- May 3-4, 2005
- Radisson Airport Hotel, Warwick, RI

For more information contact Families for Effective Autism Treatment of Rhode Island (FEATRI) at 886-5015 or visit www.featri.org

Boston University School of Social Work

Trainings offered this spring include:

The Wraparound Model of Complex Service Delivery to Children and Families

- Presenter: Chip Wilder, LICSW
- Friday, April 8, 2005 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Working with Adoptive Families: It's Complexities and Pleasures

- Presenter: Fran Eisenman, LICSW
- Wednesday, June 1, 2005 from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

All workshops will be held at the Charles River Campus.

For more information call (617) 353-3756 or visit www.bu.edu/ssw/continue.html

Wheelock College Summer Institutes

An opportunity for professionals to exchange ideas and learn about current trends in early childhood, human services, education and other disciplines.

Seminar choices include:

A Way of Being with Children: Child Centered Play Techniques for Therapists, Teachers and Those who Care for Children

- May 20-21, 2005
- Friday, 4:30-8:30 PM and Saturday 8:30-4:30 PM
- Presenter: Sarah O'Brien, LICSW

"Don't Forget About Us": Supporting the Siblings of Ill Children

- June 3-4, 2005
- Friday, 4:30-8:30 PM and Saturday 8:30-4:30 PM
- Presenter: Laura Basili, Ph.D.

Infant Mental Health: How Can We Support the Development of Early Relationships between Infants and their Caregivers?

- June 23-24, July 7-8, 2005
- Friday, 4:30-8:30 PM and Saturday 8:30-4:30 PM
- Presenter: Catherine Donahue Finn, Ed.D.

To register contact Wheelock College at (617) 879-2322 or professionaldevelopment@wheelock.edu

Children's Hospital Boston Autism Spectrum Disorders From Early Identification to Early Intervention

This presentation will focus on identifying the early "red flags" for autism spectrum disorder and how to connect early indicators of the disorder to intervention outcomes for children at risk.

Presenter: **Amy Wetherby**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

- Friday, April 15, 2005 from 8:30 AM- 5:00 PM
- The Rotunda-Harvard Medical School, Conference Center
- Boston, MA

For more information or to register, contact Sarah Quinn at (617) 355-4393 or sarah.quinn@childrens.harvard.edu

Applied Behavioral Associates, LLC

Informal seminars for teachers, professionals, and parents that include topic overviews and open group discussions. All seminars are held from 7:00-8:30PM in Framingham, Massachusetts.

Spring Seminar Series:

Understanding and Managing Explosive Children

- Presenter: Debra Flusser, MS
- April 11, 2005

For more information or to register for a seminar contact Applied Behavioral Associates at (508) 879-4161 or visit www.aba4kids.org

11th Annual Training Day for Professionals who Work with Adoptive and Foster Families

This year's training will include workshops such as: *Designing Adoption Services For Now and For the Future*, *All Reunions are Not Created Equal*, *Understanding Adoption- For Mental Health Professionals Who Do Not Specialize in Adoption*, *Standing in the Adoptee's Shoes*, *Adoption Disruption: The Worker's Trauma*, and *Working with Health Care and Counseling Professionals*.

- Special Presenter: Mary Martin Mason
- Friday April 1, 2005 from 8:30 AM- 4:00 PM
- Radisson Hotel, Milford, MA

For more information or to register, contact ODS Adoption Community of New England at (508) 429-4260.

32nd Annual New England Adoption Conference

Sponsored by: ODS Adoption Community of New England, Inc.

The Largest Adoption Conference in the country!
An ideal event for anyone touched by adoption: those thinking about adopting, adoptive parents, birth parents, adoptees and professionals.

- Saturday, April 2, 2005
- Milford, MA

For more information call (508) 429-4260 or visit www.odsacone.org

Current Concepts in Fetal and Neonatal Care

Women and Infants Hospital and *The Rhode Island Medical Society* invite perinatal healthcare providers to this 28th annual seminar. Participants will learn about the impact of recent medical and technological advances on current care and outcomes for high-risk patients as well as current clinical issues in perinatal and neonatal medicine and nursing.

- April 7, 2005 from 7:00 AM- 4:00 PM
- Rhode Island Convention Center

For more information or to register, contact Karen Kennally at 274-1122 ext.7036 or e-mail: kkennally@wihri.org

Working with Children with Auditory Processing Disorders

Understanding and Providing Individualized Interventions Through Effective Management, Accommodation and Treatment

This seminar offers professionals an overview of auditory processing disorders as well as how to identify APDs and implement successful strategies for managing and treating persons with APD.

Presenter: Jay R. Lucker, Ed.D., CCC-A/SLP, FAAA, President of the National Coalition on Auditory Processing Disorders

- March 22, 2005 from 8:30 AM-4:00 PM
- Warwick, RI

For more information or to register, contact MEDS-PDN at (715) 836-9900 or www.meds-pdn.com

OUT-OF-STATE TRAININGS

NAEYC's 14th National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development

The Institute is a unique opportunity to learn from and share experiences with colleagues—through in-depth sessions, discussion groups, and other opportunities, focused on linking research, public policy, and professional practice.

This year's Institute, "*Many Languages, Many Cultures, All Children*" will include discussion of strategies for enhancing cultural competence among early childhood educators and increasing the number of diverse, talented leaders in this field.

- June 5-8, 2005
- Miami Beach, Florida

For more information visit the NAEYC website at www.naeyc.org

The Infancy and Early Childhood Training Course

Assessment, Diagnosis, and Intervention for Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Multi-system Developmental Disorders, Regulatory Disorders Involving Attention, Learning and Behavior Problems, Cognitive, Language, Motor and Sensory Disturbances.

- Taught by Stanley Greenspan, M.D. and Serena Wieder, Ph.D.
- April 29-May 2, 2005
- Hilton McLean, Tysons Corner, VA

For more information call (301) 320-6360 or visit www.stanleygreenspan.com

The Young Child with Special Needs Conference

A conference for professionals involved in the care of young children (0-5 years) with special needs. Over twenty sessions designed to help enhance a professional's understanding of coordination of services, developmentally appropriate interventions, and current medical, developmental and educational issues affecting young children with special needs and their families.

- May 5-7, 2005
- Pre-conference: May 3-4, 2005
- Las Vegas, Nevada

For more information contact Contemporary Forums at www.contemporaryforums.com

Quality Infant/Toddler Caregiving Workshop

Syracuse University College of Human Services and Health Professions/University College

This national one-week workshop is designed to help people seeking an understanding of infant development and practical training in infant/toddler care giving. The workshop is based on research and theory in the areas of social-emotional, cognitive, motor, sensory and language development.

Workshop topics include: How intelligence grows, how emotions grow, brain research, positive discipline techniques, sensory experiences for babies, separation and attachment issues in infant care, and working with parents among other topics.

- Workshop will be led by Dr. Alice Sterling Honig
- June 6-10, 2005

For more information call (315) 443-9378 or visit www.suce.syr.edu/nqic/

Speech and Language Trainings

Early Intervention: Developing Communication, Speech & Language Training

- April 16-17 or July 16-17, 2005
- New York, NY

Treating Feeding & Swallowing Disorders in Early Intervention

- June 5-6, 2005
- New York, NY

For more information, contact Hampton Cares at (877) 439-9700 or www.hamptoncares.com

PARENT SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Sargent Rehabilitation Center

“Link to Learning” Parent Workshop Series

Workshops are intended for parents of children with special needs to provide a forum for addressing specific disabilities and issues relating to disabilities.

All workshops are free for parents.

Spring 2005 Schedule

Medicaid Eligibility & Benefits for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Presenter: Sharon Kernan, RN, MPH, Assistant Administrator, Family & Children Services, RI Dept. of Human Services Center for Child & Family Health

- April 14, 2005 from 7:00-8:30 PM

Managing the Medication Needs of Children with Disabilities

Presenter: Annie Liu, Pharmacist, CVS Pharmacy

- May 5, 2005 from 7:00-8:30 PM

What About Me? Helping Siblings Cope with a Disability in the Family

Presenters: Kristin Auger, MSW, LCSW and Lori Kelly, MSW, LICSW, Sargent Rehabilitation Center

- June 9, 2005 from 7:00-8:30 PM

For more information call Sargent's LINK LINE at 886-6612.

3rd Annual Imagine Walk and Family Fun Day

As part of National Autism Awareness Month professionals and families are invited to participate in this fundraising event to raise awareness of autism and support of ongoing programs.

Families are invited to a fun-filled day complete with pony rides, bounce houses, face painting, arts and crafts, a sensory treasure hunt and more.

Professionals also have an extra incentive to participate this year. *The most successful walking teams have an opportunity to win free A Starting Point training for staff.*

- Sunday, April 10, 2005.
- 9:00 AM check-in
- Goddard State Park, Warwick, RI

For more information, call 785-2666, or check the website: www.theautismproject.org

10th Annual Parents Retreat for Families Raising a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder

June 25-26, 2005

***Whispering Pines Conference Center
West Greenwich, Rhode Island***

A relaxed and casual country atmosphere will offer opportunities for parents and caregivers to learn by exploring and reflecting on the rewards and challenges of raising a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Come make new friends and learn from other parents!

For more information contact
Community Autism Resources at
(508) 677-9239 ext.14

Adoption Lending Library for Families

The ODS Adoption Community of New England, Inc. is now offering a searchable database of over 1,000 adoption related titles in audio, CD, video, DVD and print. Library materials are helpful for families, support groups, and professional trainings.

For more information contact ODS Adoption Community of New England at (508)429-4260 or visit www.odsacone.org

PARENT SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Rhode Island Parent Information Network

Spring Workshops

Workshops this spring include “Basic Rights in Special Education”, “The ABC’s of IEP”, “Transition from EI to School” and “Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973”.

For locations or more information call 401-727-4144 ext.123.

Early Intervention Online Support Group

Life is hectic and fast paced! It is difficult to find time for anything beyond our everyday activities!

To help families in this hectic pace we have created an on-line support group for Early Intervention family members. Pull up a comfy chair, a cup of hot coffee and join us!

Group home page:

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/EarlyIntervention>

Group email address: EarlyIntervention@yahoogroups.com

- For more information please contact:

Paula Reid, RIPIN Parent Consultant, 727-4144 x122

Father’s 1ST Network

The Father’s 1st Network is established to offer support to fathers of children with special needs, helping them to get involved, and be recognized for their involvement.

- Call Mike at 401-727-4144, x133 or visit the website at www.fathers1st.org.

Telephone Support for Parents of Children with Autism

As a resource for parents whose child was recently diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, The Autism Project of RI now has trained staff that are available to speak with parents over the phone.

Parents can call 785-2666 Monday -Thursday from 9:30AM -2:30PM to get answers to questions about ASD and receive information about programs and resources in the community.

ONGOING SUPPORT GROUPS

Moms Club of Greater Providence

The Moms Club is a support group for stay at home mothers.

Activities include monthly meetings, gatherings at parks and members homes, outings for mothers and their children, family parties, playgroups for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children, babysitting coop, and service projects to help the community.

For more information call 862-2896 or visit

www.geocities.com/providencemomsclub

Newport Hospital

Autism and PDD Support Group

This group meets at Newport Hospital in the Gudoian Conference Room on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

For more information contact Wendy Fournier at 683-6741.

Bradley Hospital

Asperger Syndrome/PDD Parents group

This support group is for parents of children who have Asperger’s Syndrome and other related conditions. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30PM in the Pine Room on Bradley Hospital’s 1st floor in the Main Building.

For more information contact Barbara Whalen at 333-1705.

Bradley Hospital Parents Association Support Group

The Bradley Hospital Parents Association is a support group for parents and families of children with emotional, behavioral, or developmental disorders. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month in the Pine Room on Bradley Hospital’s 1st floor in the Main Building.

For more information call 432-1205.

-THE BACK PAGE-

EARLY CHILDHOOD TRANSITION PASSPORT

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities is pleased to introduce its latest publication, *Early Childhood Transition Passport*.

In our work with families and providers across the state, it became clear that such a “Passport” might support families and their young children when they transition from one setting to another. The format is designed to be simple and attractive, providing “real life” information at a glance. The *Early Childhood Transition Passport* is intended for use by:

- *Families* when their child exits from Early Intervention
- *Preschool* teachers when a child is changing placements
- *Substitute teachers*
- *Child care providers* to pass on what they know to other providers
- *Early care and education staff* to connect with families and get to know new children.

We are disseminating complimentary copies for two purposes:

- 1) To get feedback on the overall format (presentation, ease of use, etc.), as well as the helpfulness of the information prompted by the questions.
- 2) To gauge purchasing interest.

Please share the *Early Childhood Transition Passport* with families, staff and peers. Here are some ‘talking points’ to help when sharing this new resource. Enclosed in each ‘Passport’ is a feedback form. Your feedback will help us to finalize the publication format, date, and price. The Sherlock Center anticipates making this publication available for purchase by May 2005.

For more information or to obtain a complimentary copy of the Transition Passport you can contact your Early Intervention Program or Parent Consultant.

You may also contact Maureen Whelan at the Sherlock Center on Disabilities at 401-456-4735.

Early Childhood Transition Passport

The *Early Childhood Transition Passport* was designed to help families and early childhood providers exchange important information about children as they transition to new settings. The Passport documents children's likes and dislikes, favorite foods and activities, and things that affect their emotions and behavior. The Passport can be completed by a family member, provider or both. The following are some suggestions on how to use the *Transition Passport*:

- Families can give a completed Passport to a teacher or provider when a child is getting ready to enter a new class or child care setting. Teachers and providers can use the information to help the child adjust to the new setting.
- The Passport can facilitate important conversations between families and providers or between sending staff and receiving staff. The information provided can familiarize teachers and providers with children before they even meet.
- Posting Passports on a bulletin board can provide teachers and staff easy reference to significant information.
- Teachers are encouraged to complete a Passport for all children in a classroom or child care setting.



Transition Passport Preview

Dear Everyone,

Today is my first day. That's a picture of ME on the front cover!

To those who know me the best thanks for making sure that my teacher and new friends will know some important things about me so that I can have fun and learn at the same time.

To everyone who will be helping me while I am away from home, thank you for understanding how different this feels to my family and me. Please use this to learn a little bit about me.

People who helped with this and can tell you more are...

(Liste las personas importantes en la vida de su niño)

Family: _____ Phone: _____
(familia) (teléfono)

How they know me: _____
(relación al niño)

Family: _____ Phone: _____
(familia) (teléfono)

How they know me: _____
(relación al niño)

Others: _____ Phone: _____
(Liste otras personas) (teléfono)

How they know me: _____
(relación al niño)

Date prepared: _____
(fecha)

Emergency Contact Information

Other important information (allergies, medications, etc.)



Here are a few more things that you should know about me...

(Liste aquí algunas cosas que deben saber acerca de su niño)

On Most Days...
(Por lo general...)

I spend my time with _____
(Liste la persona con quien su niño pasa la mayor parte del tiempo)

at _____
(Liste el lugar donde su niño pasa la mayoría del tiempo)

and my day there goes like this... 
(Describe cómo su niño pasa el tiempo)

I really like to do these things... 
(Describe las cosas que su niño le gusta hacer)

Who the child spends time with? Child's daily routines, activities, etc

Child's "favorites" (Games, food, toys, etc.)

My Favorite
(Liste lo que su niño disfruta más)

Activities are... 
(Actividades)

Games and Toys are... 
(Juegos y juguetes)

Foods are... 
(Comidas)

Here are some things I DON'T like... 
(Liste las cosas que su niño no le gusta o le que le molestan)

You'll know I'm

 **sad when...**
(Describe el comportamiento de su niño cuando está triste)

and this helps me to feel better:
(Describe que ayuda a su niño sentirse mejor)

 **mad when...**
(Describe el comportamiento de su niño cuando está enojado)

and this is how I need your help to settle down:
(Describe que ayuda a calmar su niño)

You'll know I'm

 **happy when...**
(Describe el comportamiento de su niño cuando está contento)

 **scared when...**
(Describe el comportamiento de su niño cuando tiene miedo)

and this helps me to feel better:
(Describe que ayuda a su niño sentirse mejor)

Descriptions of the child's behavior when he/she is sad, mad, happy, etc.

Tips for what to do to help the child calm down, comfort, etc.

The training center is not responsible for training cancellations and changes. In addition, attendance to any of the trainings included in the newsletter does not imply authorized reimbursement from the Rhode Island Department of Health or any other agency.

If you know of any training opportunity and wish to publicize it in our next issue please contact Crystal Taveras at ctaveras@mail.uri.edu



Published by the Rhode Island Early Intervention Training Center
Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Continuing Education
80 Washington Street, Room 214, Providence, Rhode Island 02903